

# The Bandaged One

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Summary: AU: UtaKata killed his master. Nagato killed his best friend. Itachi killed his clan. Although they admit their sins, there was one person who was more or less responsible for what these fallen prodigies had become.

## 1. Chapter 1

A/N: I don't know what I was thinking about this one, but it had to happen. It just had to. PLEASE DON'T FLAME ME TT^TT

Summary:

AU: UtaKata killed his master. Nagato killed his best friend. Itachi killed his clan. Although they admit their sins, there was one person who was more or less responsible for what these fallen prodigies had become.

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"Akatsuki"

UtaKata had been on the run for four years now. Mist's hunter-nin had been pursuing him while consistently failing. Most of them were now dead, yet Mist never stopped trailing him off, he was not just some rogue ninja "he was a damned jinchuriki. \_A damned jinchuriki who could 'control' his bijuu.\_ That's what they had been saying: 'control'. Saiken did not like that word, if there was anything in between he and UtaKata, it was friendship and mutual understanding, not control.

Saiken actually felt bad for his host. His sensei thought he was insane because UtaKata talked to himself most of the time. UtaKata was talking to Saiken, not to himself. When the Hidden Mist let them onto various missions that involve killing, UtaKata's master became more worried. Saiken understood "the man was genuinely concerned

â€" but it annoyed him. It annoyed him that the man made a deal with that Leaf shinobi. Mist and Leaf weren't even in good terms, so why trust that foreign ninja? Oh yesâ€"Saiken forgot. That man never trusted Mist, either. So he sealed a deal. A deal which involved Saiken being extracted from Utakata; and if Saiken guessed correctly, that bandaged Leaf shinobi wanted him, not Utakata. What was with that weird human being anyway? Saiken had a shared glimpse with Utakata that the bandaged ninja had Sharingan on his arm. What theâ€"? It was when Saiken was hit with a realization: the Leaf bastard wanted to try and control him like what that Madara Uchiha did to Kurama. Of course, Saiken was angered, and it didn't help that Utakata freaked out as well when his sensei tried to break the seal. Now, the poor man was dead, but the Leaf bastard got away. Now, Utakata became a fugitive, living on nothing else but doing killing other fugitives for bounty. Now, Saiken felt guilty of killing his host's father figure.

Utakata, however, did not blame Saiken for anything. The bijuu was all he had left â€" the one friend who knew all his secrets and will be always there for him. He was pretty mad at his master at that time, when he killed him. When he knew that someone took advantage of his master's anxiousness for him to take Saiken away, Utakata became hell-bent on plotting how to destroy that person. Damn, if he'd rampage on the Leaf just like the Nine-Tails several years ago just to make sure that the bandaged retard was going to die, he'd do it. But if he did, a lot of innocent people were going down with him, and that was not what he wanted. He weighed the pros and cons, and also did not mean that Utakata wanted to blame someone else, he'd always blame himself for not seeing the truth sooner. It was justâ€"what if that man will victimize someone else, and take advantage of them like what he did before? Utakata could imagine that man trying his luck on other peopleâ€"probably other jinchuriki as well.

"Saiken, what do you think we should do for now?" Utakata asked the Six-Tails. If they infiltrated Leaf, he'd risk both of them of being captured â€" not that Utakata had no trust on their combined skills, he himself was considered prodigious â€" it was that they'd probably end up fighting his ANBU, alone. Although killing ANBU wasn't new to Utakata, but an entire village means a whole army of shinobi. If those shinobi knew that one of their high-ranking officials was a target for assassination, of course they'd protect him. His best chances were to wait for that man to go outside of Leaf.

"Seeking allies would be good for us," Saiken said, "but in our position right now, it would be hard."

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"So you've heard the news?"

"Yesâ€"the Fourth Mizukageâ€"had been under some genjutsu? It's unbelievable!"

"Who found out?"

"I don't knowâ€"but they said some rogue ninjas were after the person who was controlling the Mizukageâ€"

"What? So the rogue ninjas saved the Mizukage?"

"Well I've heard that those ninjas' only purpose was to kill the genjutsu casterâ€|they were after him and the Sannin Orochimaruâ€|or so I've heard."

Utakata and Saiken listened to the conversation of the two travelers. They just visited this restaurant just to buy some food after another fight with the hunter-nin. Utakata made sure the corpses would decay completely; after all, corrosion was his specialty other than water style. After he got the dumplings, Utakata left without looking back, only to be tracked down again. He and Saiken felt the followers, and they sure weren't hunter-nin.

"What do you want?" Utakata asked, he knew his followers were behind him. He turned around to see a red-haired man with weird eyes, and another man with long dark hair. Both of them looked at around his age. And as he looked closely, they were both wearing a black cloak with red clouds. Utakata noticed their forehead protectors â€" the red-haired man had Rain's symbol, while the dark-haired man had Leaf's â€" both scratched to cross out the symbol of their village. Rogue ninjas.

"Those eyesâ€|" Utakata heard Saiken murmur at the back of his mind.

"To be blunt, we want you to join us," the red-haired man answered.

"On what purpose?" Utakata was getting ready to pull out his bubble blower.

The dark-haired man stared at Utakata blankly, then said, "We do not wish to fightâ€|our purpose is to maintain peace as much as we could."

"That's why we want you to join usâ€|since you're one of the rare jinchuriki who is in good terms with their bijuu," the red-haired continued.

"Utakataâ€|this manâ€|we should give him a chanceâ€|" Saiken whispered.

"Is that so?" that was the jinchuriki's answer to both Saiken and the two rogue shinobis.

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"â€|our purpose once was to capture bijuu," the red-haired man, apparently named Nagato Uzumaki, clenched his fists, "until I realized thatâ€|it wasâ€|not worth it."

Utakata followed the two â€" whose group was named Akatsuki â€" and he was brought to one of their hideouts. The jinchuriki followed Nagato, until he stopped in front of a giant statue. The former Mist shinobi found himself gaping at it.

"â€|that's theâ€|impossibleâ€|" Saiken seemed to be either in awe or worried at the back of Utakata's mind.

"This is the Gedo Statueâ€|where all bijuu once was," Nagato stated, inhaling, "it must not be activated to the purpose of sealing bijuu

or else it would end up badly."

"It would," Saiken whispered to Utakata.

"Saiken says so, too," Utakata gave a slight nod. "So what is it with you and the Uchiha guy? Are you the only ones in this group?"

Nagato stopped for a while and looked up at the statue. "Before, it was just recently that it became only Itachi and I, when two other members went against each other," it seemed like he stopped himself from breaking into tears, "one of them died, while we hunted down the other another one had been quite slippery from the beginning and deserted the Akatsuki. The last one was Orochimaru whose purpose was nothing but to take over Itachi's body," he continued, "When we knew more about each other, I convinced Itachi to replace his eyes with his father's since he was almost going blind. With his father's eyes, he saw part of the future and to maintain peace, we have to eliminate certain people as quickly as possible" Nagato produced a book on his hand, and handed it to Utakata.

The jinchuriki flipped the pages, found some people he knew and didn't. What were the pros if he'd join? Well, since they had a good hideout Utakata wouldn't be bothered that much by the hunter-nin, since they would most likely to lose track of him. Nagato promised they'd watch each other's back, and that came from the guy who killed Hanzo the Salamander. Saiken told Utakata that Nagato had the Sage of Six Paths' eyes, which meant by that alone he must be insanely powerful. The cons pretty much involved the other member of the Akatsuki, Itachi Uchiha. Saiken had been wary of him, and Utakata knew it was because of his Eternal Mangekyo Sharingan, something Madara Uchiha possessed. And even though he was rogue, the Uchiha was still from the Leaf, a place that made Utakata and Saiken feel uncomfortable with just a thought of it.

Utakata stopped at the page with the picture and name of the person he and Saiken were determined to kill.

"I'll join if we start with him," Utakata showed the page to Nagato, who noticed his tone's bitterness.

"Him? Has he done something wrong with you, too?" Nagato asked offhandedly.

"Too? Too? So that bandaged bastard did something to Nagato as well? Utakata found it so believable yet he did not expect to meet another victim. "You bet he did," he almost spat.

Nagato smirked. "It looks like it's the three of us then."

"Do you mean that Uchiha also-"

"Itachi?" the red-haired turned grim, "Itachi's just too nice of a person that I bet out of the three of us, he deserves to behead him the most."

"Why? What did he do to him?"

"It's more of, what he let Itachi do...you probably have heard of stories, in which, Itachi killed his clan, right?"

Utakata gave a slight nod, until he realized, "You don't meanâ€¦" He remembered that the bastard was a high official of the Leaf. "â€¦he let the Uchiha wipe out his ownâ€¦"

Even Saiken, who was listening to the conversation, felt he wanted to throw a bijuu bomb at that damned Leaf shinobi.

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A/N: Hello people who are reading this! I'm sorryâ€¦I really had to make the characters OOC in this AU. And I'm also sorry for making the damned bandaged bastard more detestable than he already is. (And I'm sorry for those who actually like him). I wanted to know how this trio would turn out if they combined their powers and stuff. I like the thought of alternative teams, kind of like Gaara, Fuu, and Naruto from The Joint Shinobi Selection Program by middlechild274. Even though it's not finished yet, I enjoy rereading it again and again.

## 2. Chapter 2

Utakata woke up to the sound of clashing kunai. For a moment, he panicked, thinking it was the hunter-nin following him. Then he realized he was in the Akatsuki hideout, where he actually had a room to sleep in. Groggily, he stood up. He remembered the passages Nagato had shown him, and he went for the nearest exit.

Outside, the jinchuriki saw Nagato and Itachi sparring, and by the looks of it, they were doing it for some time now. Damn, had he slept so deep? They both stopped when they saw him.

"Utakata, so you're awake," Nagato greeted.

"Yeahâ€¦" Utakata rubbed his eyes.

"You two haven't been properly introduced to each other, right?" Nagato glanced to Itachi.

Itachi nodded, and then offered a hand to Utakata, "Itachi Uchiha."

The jinchuriki shook hands with the Uchiha, "Utakata."

Just then, someone's stomach growled. Utakata did not want to admit it was his, as he heard Saiken's chortle inside him. What the jinchuriki did not expect was a small smile from the Uchiha.

"I'll go cook, then," Itachi said, as they followed him into the kitchen.

The kitchen and dining room was connected, and it was big, enough for at least twelve people to sit and eat together. Utakata and Nagato sat together and watched Itachi chop some vegetables.

"Does he need help?" Utakata whispered.

"Noâ€¦he likes to do it all by himself," Nagato answered, closing his eyes, deactivating the Rinnegan. His eyes were dark â€" but not as

dark as Itachi's " they were more grayish purple. He turned to Itachi, "By the way, what do you think would be the best approach about Orochimaru and his plans?"

"Orochimaru?" Utakata and Saiken uttered.

"From the intel we've gathered he's plotting to attack Leaf," Itachi answered, but kept on what he was doing. "Nagato and I argued who should we tell first Jiraiya or the Third Hokage."

Utakata was confused, "You're saying you two are working with them?" What the hell did he just get into?

"It's more complicated than that," Nagato replied, "We usually sell information so that we could easily kill our target. And they pay us" the red-hair then turned his gaze to Itachi, then to Utakata, grinning, "don't tell me you're backing out in this."

"We've heard earlier in our travels that Jiraiya isn't in the Leaf, Utakata," Saiken whispered, "And if they tell the Hokage, surely we'll be going to Leaf...?"

The jinchuriki considered the bijuu's statement carefully.

"Not really," Utakata nonchalantly answered Nagato's question, "I just think it's better for us to just tell the Hokage since Leaf is his responsibility, right?"

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Naruto woke up, almost screaming. It was a nightmare of Sasuke-teme kissing Sakura-chan, right in front of him. It made him want to defeat that duck-butt even more! What made him more annoyed was the clock stating that it was three in the morning. What kind of person wakes up at three? Naruto wanted to go to sleep again, so that he'd be ready for that boring D-class later in the day. He would show that he's better than Sasuke-teme anytime! Then Sakura-chan would think he's the best.

The genin wanted to put back his covers and go to sleep, but there was something urging him to take a peek at the window. Naruto did not know what it was that took over him to take a peek.

The roads were still covered by fog, and no living soul was found walking there. Naruto decided to go back for a few hours of sleep, until he noticed \_jiji\_? The Third Hokage? He was walking in the streets alone, arms on his back. The old man stopped and looked at Naruto's direction, and the genin was quick to hide himself below the window. What was \_jiji\_ doing so early in the morning? Was that what Hokages always do, walk around early in the morning? When Naruto felt that the Third had continued walking on, he slowly peeked at the window. Yes, jiji did continue to walk but where? Why? Somehow, it made Naruto's heart pound as he grabbed his jacket and wore his shoes to follow the old man. At the back of his mind, he expected to discover something phenomenal.

The Hokage walked toward the outskirts of Konoha. The morning fog became thicker and thicker as Naruto stalked past the village. He reached the woods, still stalking the old man, when the fog suddenly became unnaturally thick. Naruto paused on a branch, hiding himself.

He could still see " though vaguely " the old man, he had stopped. He looked at the tree where Naruto was on, but quickly turned to the thicker fog in front of him.

\_This fog isn't an ordinary fog, is it?\_ Naruto's brows furrowed, and he remembered the jutsu Zabuza used. \_Could this be?\_ Naruto quickly glanced at the Hokage's direction. Standing in front of the old man were three tall masked people, all wearing uniformed maroon hoods. There was one with a blue mask, one wearing a black mask, and the last one was wearing a red mask. \_When did they get there?\_ Naruto couldn't hear what they were talking about. Jiji seemed to be worried or surprised, as the black-masked persona seemed to say something. Naruto couldn't hear, though he watched as silently as he could. The blue-masked persona suddenly looked at his direction, but the old man put a hand on his shoulder while saying something. The blue-masked persona returned his gaze to the Hokage, nodding, while the black-masked persona continued to say something. The red-masked persona then put his hand on the black-masked persona's shoulder, and then handed a scroll to the old man. The three personas then lined up and bowed, but then the black-masked person glanced at Naruto's direction. Again, the genin hid behind the tree, only to discover that the black masked person was standing " or \_floating\_ " in front of him, with a gloved hand trying to grab his face"slowly"slowly"Naruto was frozen"

The alarm buzzed 6:30. Naruto woke up. \_So it was all a dream? A dream of waking up from a bad dream and then?\_

Naruto clutched his head, "It was a creepy dream"but it was somehow cool, believe it!" Naruto exclaimed, much to his neighbors' annoyance. He had to tell Konohamaru about this! And probably Sakura-chan! He couldn't care less about Sasuke-teme, though. He'd just say, "Hmph!" or anything like that.

After he got ready, Naruto excitedly went to where Team 7 was supposed to meet. Sakura-chan was already there"but Sasuke-teme, too.

"Hey, Sakura-chan!" Naruto rubbed the back of his head, grinning.

"What is it, Naruto?" Sakura rolled her eyes.

"You know, I had this really interesting dream, believe it!" Naruto started, "So the dream started with me waking up" he skipped the part of his Sasuke and Sakura dream in a dream, "I saw jiji walking down the streets 3am in the morning, then I followed him"he stopped when he was outside the village, where the fog became extremely thick and out came these three masked hooded guys and started talking to jiji"the four of them started talking but I couldn't hear, then the one with the red mask handed the scroll to the old man"I saw the one with the black mask staring back at me and when I turned around to hide, the black-masked person was already in front of me and tried to grab my face"then I woke up."

"Hah, that's stupid," commented Sasuke, who was actually listening.

Naruto was about to answer, \_no you're stupid\_, when Kakashi arrived and cut in, "Three masked people, huh?"

"Yeah, one with a red mask, another with a blue mask, and another with a black mask," Naruto answered, "Hey, when did you get here?"

So, Team 7 continued on their boring missions, and for a few days in went on that way. Naruto didn't even have a chance to tell Konohamaru about it, until they had a break.

"That's so cool boss!" Konohamaru's eyes sparkled.

"Did you just say people wearing maroon hoods with masks?" Someone from behind said. Naruto turned around to see a foreign shinobi his age, with shoulder length bluish white hair and sharp teeth. He had two other companions, another boy with bluish white hair " though shorter and spiky " wearing glasses and earmuffs, and a girl with waist-length brown hair. Both of them had sharp teeth as well. "I'm sorryI just wondered if the black masked guy summoned a red giant armor thing that carried a giant glowing sword"

Naruto was confused. "Who the hell are you, anyway? What are you doing here in the first place?"

The boy grinned, showing his sharp teeth, "Name's Suigetsu. Me and my team's here for the Chuunin Exams."

"The what?"

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A/N: Greetings, people who are reading this. I hope you all enjoyed this, and if not, please don't flame me. Yeesh, this chapter simply came to me. I don't know what is it with borderline dream/reality that usually I write about it passively. I know it was supposed to be Gaara in the last scene, but don't worry, Gaara would (obviously) be still in the story.

End  
file.